FORM PTO-1390 MENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE (REV. 1-98) TRANSMITTAL LETTER THE UNITED STATES 1163-0271P DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371 INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED PCT/JP98/04815 23 October 1998 27 October 1997 TITLE OF INVENTION IMAGE CODING APPARATUS, IMAGE CODING METHOD, IMAGE DECODING APPARATUS AND IMAGE DECODING APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US HASEGAWA, Yuri; SEKIGUCHI, Shunichi; KURODA, Shinichi; ASAI, Kohtaro; NISHIKAWA, Hirofumi; and ISU, Yoshimi Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information: 1. This is a FIRST submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371. This is a SECOND or SUBSEQUENT submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371. 3. This express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)) at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit set in 35 U.S.C. 371(b) and PCT Articles 22 and 39 (1). A proper Demand for International Preliminary Examination was made by the 19th month from the earliest claimed priority date A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)) is transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau). has been transmitted by the International Bureau. is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US). A translation of the International Application into English (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)). Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)). are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau). have been transmitted by the International Bureau. have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired. d. X have not been made and will not be made. A translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)). An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)). A translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)). Items 11. to 16. below concern document(s) or information included: An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98./International Search Report with cited references An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included. A FIRST preliminary amendment. A SECOND or SUBSEQUENT preliminary amendment. A substitute specification. A change of power of attorney and/or address letter. Other items or information: Forty-one (41) Sheets of Formal Drawings